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### The Belt of Desolation.

Day by day, remarks the Richmond Whig, the track of the destroyer becomes broader. Two-thirds of Virginia, two-thirds of Tennessee, the coasts of North Carolina, part of Georgia, nearly all of Florida, Northern Mississippi, Western and Southern Louisiana, a great part of Arkansas and Missouri have recently been laid waste, and every hour brings tidings of fresh destruction. Telegrams of Saturday informed us that the enemy had destroyed a million dollars worth of property on the Combahee and stolen a thousand negroes; it was but a few days ago that they ravaged the country of Matthews in this State, and even while we write tidings come to us that they are burning private houses and destroying every grain of corn they can lay hands on in the county of King and Queen.

Enough has been said of the barbarism of this mode of warfare, and too much has to be commended of the entire impunity with which it is carried on. Our outcries and our admissions of the weakness or the imbecility of our forces in the field but add to the belittling of the foe, without stimulating troops. Government people to the pitch of rebellion. The belt of desolation which in turn complains of the Government, which in turn complains of the citizens. Meantime common inquiry is made as to the existence and present whereabouts of the organized forces of the Confederacy.

We may be sure this state of things will continue so long as the war is waged exclusively on Confederate soil. Every day the enemy remains in our territory will add to the width of the belt of desolation, and they who fancy themselves out of danger will soon discover their mistake. If a thousand Yankee cavalry can ride through the State of Mississippi without molestation, what is to hinder a like number from going through Virginia, North and South Carolina to Port Royal? Certainly unarmed and unorganized citizens cannot hinder them.

The belt of desolation serves many purposes of the Yankee nation. It opens a way to free labor and Northern settlers; it diminishes production and concentrates Southern population within limits inadequate to their support; it prepares a place for Yankee emigration if peace on the basis of separation is declared. But this is not all. It answers the purposes of war as well as peace, by intercepting a country destitute of supplies between our own and the Yankee border.

This is a safeguard against invasion. If Lee would advance, he must move through a desert, dragging immense trains of food behind him. The case is the same with Bragg, with Johnston, with Price. Indeed, we hear that Price will on this account find it difficult if not impossible, to enter Missouri. In front of all our large armies is a waste, where there is food for neither man nor beast. Girded by a belt of desolation, the North is safe from invasion; the broader the belt the greater its security.

As the months wane and the years roll on, the South needs something to be done, will become in the language of Scripture, "the abomination of desolation." We believe that something will be done—the necessity of the case demands it imperatively; would that we could be sure it would be done speedily. This cup can be turned to the lips of the North drugged with ten-fold bitterness. Mercy to ourselves demands this act of retributive justice to them.

The Richmond Enquirer, in an article headed "The Consul," in which it justifies Mr. Moore's not submitting his commission as British Consul to our Secretary of State, and the annulling of his Exequatur by President Davis, says:

Very well; it is now Mr. Moore's duty to ignore entirely both the Letters Patent and the Secretary's note, and to proceed exactly as before, discharging all the duties of Consul, and issuing protections to those claiming to be British subjects, who would otherwise be obliged to serve in our army. He is not permitted to submit his commission to an authority of which his Government knows nothing, nor to ask for an Exequatur from any person or persons unknown. On the other hand, it will be the duty of the President to prevent him from exercising those consular functions, and entirely to disregard his consular "protections." Whereupon, issue is joined.

We are either an independent nation, or we are not; if yes, then the President has taken the only proper and dignified course, and any nation which desires to protect its people resident amongst us, knows the way to do it—recognize our independence and send the proper officers. We desire to do no wrong to Englishmen, or to any others; do not want them in our armies; have no scheme of spoliation or oppression to put in practice towards them; desire nothing better, in short, than to allow them all their rights and immunities, if the claim be made to us through the proper officer.

Scolding of the Richmond papers, we observe, in publishing these Letters Patent, from the Secretary's note, make the silly remark that the objection to Mr. Moore is "special, and refers to his official misconduct personally." Now, there is no personal objection to Mr. Moore, and he has been guilty of no misconduct. As to his acting upon matters "in the State of Mississippi," he has just as good a right to act in that State as any other—namely, no right at all.

So far, then, from repeating the phrases about special case and personal misconduct, we have the pleasure of informing our readers that this act of the President puts an end not to the Consul only, but to the Consulship. There will never be another British Consul at Richmond, unless he comes accredited to our Government, and asking from its Executive a Charleston and Mobile, we believe, are now in a state of similar dereliction and abandonment to that in which Richmond abandoned itself. The citizens do not sleep the worse, neither is their appetite for victuals diminished. The sun seems to shine as usual, and to our mind, he shines rather brighter. We hope nobody will be so stupid as to say that this action of the President is an offence or a provocation to England, or may lead to "rupture" or war. It is a state long since expected, and our great forbearance and delay have been much admired—in foreign lands; not so much in our own.

Billy Wilson's Zouaves, numbering 600 men are on their way from New Orleans to New York, to be mustered out of service. They were not allowed to take their arms. This same class of men will make trouble for Lincoln when they get out of service.

### The Fight at Culpeper, Va.

CULPEPER, June 14.—The enemy throw a heavy cavalry force, with artillery and infantry support, across the Rappahannock yesterday, and advanced on Brandy Station and Strasburg. They were met by our cavalry, and a fight ensued, which continued till night, when the enemy retired across the river.

Col. Williams, of the Second North Carolina Regiment, Lieut. Col. Hampton, of the Second South Carolina, Captain Jones, of the First South Carolina, and Captain Parker, of Stuart's, were killed. Colonel Butler, of the Second South Carolina, lost his leg. Captain Fox, of the First South Carolina, badly wounded. Captain Rich, Cobb's Legion, taken prisoner. Gen. W. H. T. Lee, slightly wounded.

We took three guns and 200 prisoners. Our loss is about 400 in killed, wounded and prisoners. Another version of the affair is as follows: It seems that the enemy's cavalry, ten thousand strong, having crossed the Rappahannock on Monday night at a point above Kelley's Ford, not before known to be fordable, at an early hour on Tuesday morning, and fell suddenly upon our cavalry camp at Brandy Station, a point on the Orange and Alexandria railroad, five miles beyond Culpeper, killed our horse.

They killed or captured our pickets and surprised two of our regiments, whilst the men were at breakfast and the horses grazing. The two regiments fled and were hotly pursued by the enemy, who took three or four hundred prisoners and many horses. The pursuit was finally checked by the arrival of our reinforcements. A sanguinary and desperate battle then took place, which lasted, some say an hour, others all day. Much of the fighting was hand-to-hand, a fact in part authenticated by the number of sabre wounds given and received. The result of this engagement was that the enemy was driven from that field. The fight was repeatedly renewed by us till six o'clock in the evening, at which time the enemy retired, or was driven across the Rappahannock.

After our men recovered from their surprise we gained a favorable position, which was held throughout the day, although repeated attempts were made by the enemy to dislodge our forces. About the time our infantry arrived the enemy gave way, and pursuit was made by our cavalry, and some three or four hundred prisoners taken. This was late in the afternoon, and when, perhaps, our cavalry was too much exhausted by the incessant fighting of the day fully to follow up the advantage gained.

From the meagre accounts we already have we are led to conclude that the fight of Tuesday was one of the heaviest cavalry battles that has occurred during the war, and perhaps the severest ever fought in this country. An officer who took part in the battle reports that we lost not less than seven Colonels in the engagement. The same authority states that a regiment of our cavalry was dismounted and thrown forward as sharpshooters against the artillery of the enemy, and pick off their gunners. This force was charged by a largely superior force of the enemy, and, being without bayonets with which to meet the charge, they fired and then retreated. In the retreat a large number were cut off, and many of them made prisoners. The regiment consisted of nearly seven hundred men. The horses of the dismounted men were stamped by the shells of the enemy, and many of them had not been recovered at last accounts. It is stated that our loss in horses will reach from 500 to 600.

From Vicksburg. JACKSON, June 9.—Correct advices from Vicksburg place our losses in the late assaults at from five to six hundred. Among the killed are Colonel Marks of La. The Vicksburg ladies appear to be entirely indifferent to the shelling of the enemy, and are out every night looking at the sight. The enemy is erecting parallels four hundred yards distant from our out works, and is constantly shelling.

Grant's army refuses to assault our fortifications again, and he has squatted down to starve the garrison. JACKSON, June 11.—Our scouts from the vicinity of Vicksburg report Grant hauling water for his troops from the Big Black, eight miles. He has mounted siege guns and opened fire. To-night the firing is incessant.

Our combats are replying promptly, proclaiming to the world the spirit that animates our troops in the works, and that Vicksburg shall never be surrendered.

Heavy firing continued at Vicksburg last night. The firing was heavier than any yet heard. The weather is clear and warm, the thermometer being at 90°.

Citizens from Horn Lake reports three transports with troops, supplies, &c., going down to Vicksburg.

A correspondent of the Times admits Grant's loss to be enormous. One Indiana regiment, went in 900 strong, and came out with a Lieut. Colonel and fifteen men. The same correspondent says that a Federal brigade was repulsed at the Big Black by General Johnston.

The Brownsville Flag of the 1st inst., learns that "when Gen. Magruder and Bee paid a visit to the Governor of Louisiana, the authorities in Matamoros fired a salute in honor of the distinguished visitors; whereupon the Lincoln consul demanded his passport."

The correspondent of the Ranchero confirms the above thus: "The Yankee consul, however, demanded his passport on the ground that the said authorities treated the officers of the unrecognized Confederacy with civility."

Flag says Gen. Magruder would leave in a few days as the critical situation of affairs in Louisiana demanded his presence in that quarter. The editor adds: "Banks will soon meet the fighting part of the Department of Texas."

Gen. Bragg's Movements. The Chattanooga correspondent of the Mobile Tribune, writing under date of the 6th, says: "The movements of our army towards Murfreesboro" indicate that Gen. Bragg is determined that Rosecrans shall show his hand, and not keep up an appearance of strength and false pretences. We have therefore made an advance to feel of the enemy, and already several skirmishes have occurred. A portion of our forces have advanced to within five miles of Murfreesboro, and if Rosecrans will come out of his fortifications an engagement will take place. But if not, it is supposed Gen. Bragg will not attempt to storm the enemy's works without having learned his strength; in the latter case we may attempt to turn the enemy by a flank movement and gain his rear. If Gen. Bragg should succeed in crushing Rosecrans' army and cutting him off from Nashville, he will not only retrieve his military reputation as a General, but it would at once restore him in the confidence of the people.

Two fleets have left Hilo Head for the Southern coast—one for the Altamaha, Ga., and one for the St. Johns, Fla. The latter to ascend the river, and land troops at Jacksonville, who are to make incursions into the interior. The object of both is to pillage, destroy, and lay waste. The Yankees say they will have no more pitched battles, as nothing is gained by them; they can accomplish more by destroying everything that comes before them. This is the new mode of warfare which we were threatened with a short time since. Our people will no doubt know how to treat such warriors when they fall into their hands.

### The Advertiser.

JAMES T. BACON, ED. TOR.  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1863.

Col. M. C. Butler. Our Village was suddenly plunged into deep excitement and distress on Thursday last by the arrival of the news that our gallant, gifted, and universally admired and beloved volunteer, Col. M. C. Butler, commanding 2nd Reg't S. C. Cavalry, now in service in Virginia, under Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, had been seriously wounded in the Cavalry fight of the 9th, on the upper Rappahannock, as to render amputation of the leg necessary. Further despatches, contrary to the earnest hopes of our anxious community, have fully confirmed this sad intelligence. We learn from these that Col. B.'s leg has been amputated between the knee and ankle, and that he was, immediately following the operation, doing well and suffering comparatively little pain.

Mrs. Butler, wife of Col. B., accompanied by her father, Ex-Gov. PICKENS, departed for Virginia on Friday morning to join her husband. Whilst all profoundly regret that the chivalric warrior has suffered mutilation at the hands of the dastards, yet all rejoice at the victory he has been so instrumental in obtaining, and are deeply thankful that the life of the gallant Butler is spared to his country.

We were pleased to see in the Village on Tuesday, Mr. Jas. P. Moss, of Co. D, 14th S. C. Reg't, who was severely wounded at the battle of Chancellorsville. He is looking well and hides far to soon be ready for the vanguards again. We hope he may be permitted to enjoy a long and pleasant respite at home.

Public Meeting. We have been requested by citizens of the Lower Battalion, 9th Regiment, to announce that a public meeting will be held at Red Hill on Saturday, the 20th inst., for the purpose of organizing a Company for home defence. Old men, young men, exempts, and all, turn out and enroll your names. The emergency of this times demand prompt action. Be ye ready and prepared for the conflict, for we have a cunning and an energetic foe to contend against.

Elford's Primer. We are indebted to Mr. G. E. Elford, of Greenville S. C., for a very neat little Primer entitled "Elford's Primer for Little Girls and Boys." We are gratified to learn that it is Mr. Elford's desire to get out a series of Readers, Spellers, &c., of which the Primer before us is the first. Teachers and dealers in School Books should at once send in orders to Mr. Elford for a supply of his useful publication, and thereby encourage Mr. E. in his commendable efforts to introduce Southern books for the instruction of our youth.

### Remember the Wife and Children of the Poor Soldier.

With pride and pleasure, we publish the subjoined letter from our intellectual and public spirited fellow-citizen, Gen. MARCELLUS HAMMOND. This is only one of a long series of numerous charities performed by Gen. HAMMOND since the beginning of the war. We know of no man who has done his duty in this high and holy respect, more fully and freely than the gentleman whose name stands at the bottom of the annexed letter. We, on our own part, thank him cordially for his indulgent words of commendation, and assure him that they will act as incentives to further effort in this good cause. The thanks of the wife and children of the poor soldier, and the blessing of the poor soldier himself, may be unuttered, but they will be no less deep and heartfelt.

NEAR HAMBURG, S. C., June 11th, 1863.

DEAR SIR: Your editorial relating to the poor families of soldiers, is well-timed and altogether just. I send you a check for \$50, which I beg that you will appropriate to the object you have so earnestly, and in such handsome terms advocated. Very truly, yours, M. C. HAMMOND.

JAS. T. BACON, Esq., Ed. Edgefield Advertiser.

Brig. Gen. Sam. McGowan.

The Abbeville Press, of Friday last, says: "For the first time since he has been at home, Gen. McGowan appeared on the streets and at his office last Wednesday. His general health appears good and is looking well, though his wound is very painful yet, and will no doubt be months before he will be able to walk without crutches."

Death of Lieut. Col. Frank Hampton. We regret to learn (says the Columbia Guardian, of Thursday last) that private dispatches received yesterday announce the death of Lieut. Colonel Frank Hampton, from wounds received in the cavalry fight on the 9th, on the Rappahannock. It seems to have been an obstinate engagement, lasting from 5 A. M. to 5 P. M., but closing with decided success for the Confederates. In this prolonged action Col. H. has fallen, and the country has to mourn a gallant soldier, this country a useful and public spirited citizen, and society a member without reproach. He was highly esteemed in the State, and his death will carry grief far beyond the circle of his own family.

The Southern Field & Fireside.

We are pleased to greet once again this valued publication, which has been suspended for a few weeks for want of paper. The publisher has now made arrangements to obtain a supply of paper, and we hope hereafter to enjoy the visits of this justly popular journal with its hitherto wonted regularity. In the number before us the publisher says: "As the late suspension was caused by circumstances beyond our control—the burning of the Bath Paper Mill—we trust our readers will exercise a spirit of patience and forbearance, and accept the assurance that the Publisher has made every exertion in their behalf. He has continued the paper at less than half the price charged by other literary papers of like size—two others published at Richmond being \$10 a year. He has sent an agent to nearly every paper mill in the Confederacy, for the purpose of securing paper, and we are now gratified by the assurance that our supply of paper will in a few days be such as to enable us to appear on a full sheet. Such is the price of paper, and the prospect of further advance, that the Publisher may be obliged to make a further increase in the subscription price, but if so, he will make it at the lowest remunerative figure. He trusts our readers will increase the circulation of the paper at the present price, but will supply it to all who may subscribe."

"We have a number of new features in preparation, which cannot fail to maintain for the Field and Fireside the pre-eminence it has long enjoyed as a home newspaper."

The late accounts from Mexico say the surrender of Puebla and the capture of the entire Mexican army is confirmed. There is no shadow of a hope that the city of Mexico will long escape the fate of Puebla.

The Africa has arrived at New York with news from Europe to May 31st. It is expected that France will recognize the Confederates and other European powers will not be slow to follow. Roebuck will soon move in the House of Commons that England upon negotiation with other Governments to do the same.

The Mobile Register and Advertiser makes its appearance in new type, with a new head and an enlarged sheet. These are evidences of prosperity. Success to it.

### Pyrotechnics.

We have reached a point in this war at which it is necessary for us to pause and consider our position before the civilized world. We have beaten and baffled the Arms of Abraham Lincoln on so many bloody fields that the only himself has acknowledged our superiority. Inspiring then of achieving any thing with sword, he is now trying what he can do with the bombard. Finding himself incapable of acting as soldier, he has turned incendiary.

The grave question is now pressing itself upon us, how long can we submit to his savage warfare? When are we to begin the fearful work of retaliation? It may suit the Government of the United States to carry on a warfare known only to savages; that Government has nothing to lose; it has already become a stench in the nostrils of the civilized world, and in the depths of infamy it has found that "still lower depth."

Not so with ourselves; wisdom in counsel, daring courage, patient endurance of hardships, magnanimity to our enemies, have won for us a lofty rank among the nations of the earth. We should not therefore take any step lightly or unadvisedly, calculated to tarnish our national escutcheon. But self preservation is the first law of nature. While, therefore, we should cherish a sacred regard for the laws of honor and chivalry, we must remember that the Knights of Malta never applied their law when dealing with midnight assassins and incendiaries. But though we owe nothing to such a law-born son as Abraham Lincoln, yet we owe to ourselves, we owe a solemn responsibility to God, and to the opinion of the civilized world.

We hold it that our Government is bound to protect its citizens from this war waged with the fire-brand; and there is but one mode of protection, namely—retaliation. But before resorting to that fearful and odious measure, we should put ourselves rectus in curia before the world. We believe that it would be wise in our Government to send a formal and solemn protest to the authorities at Washington, calling upon them to desist from waging a war with fire-brands, and warning them that, if persisted in, we will retaliate in such a manner as to turn their wrath into mourning.

It matters nothing how Mr. Lincoln may treat such a communication; our purpose will be accomplished, namely, the justifying ourselves before the civilized world. If he disregards our warning, then we shall have nothing left but to execute our threat. And it would be done in such a way as to make our enemies take up the lamentation of Mike, "ye have taken away my gods which I made, and whithersoever I go."

We have only to turn loose our cavalry upon them with sword and firebrand, and to spare neither farm house or hamlet, town or village, property, public or private; to spare nothing that fire will burn, save only their Churches. Let the track of our troops be marked only by a continuous heap of ashes.

It may be asked whether we are able to do this thing. Such a question is only the suggestion of cowardice, and needs no reply. A more pertinent enquiry is, will it effect any good? We cannot answer certainly as to results. Performances belong to man—consequences to God. The enemy will perhaps retaliate; what then? When he has destroyed root and branch after he will cease from destroying. Suppose we do not retaliate, will the enemy do less than this? If we suffer him to burn our property until his malice is satisfied, does any one suppose that he will leave a sprig of grass growing in our country? One thing we do know. When men are driven on in a course of vice by "Bible authority" and fanaticism, there is but one thing that will arrest them, and that is punishment. Punishment as force and relentless as their own fanaticism. If this remedy fails, and it may fail, then there is nothing left but a war of utter extermination for both parties. But we hope for better things.

Stonewall Jackson's Family.

The Savannah Republican, noticing the proposal to erect a monument to General Jackson, says: "We have heard that the widow and child, who should be adopted by their country, are left in very moderate circumstances, and if this be so, while we approve the project for a monument, we are first for placing them in circumstances entirely independent. This is the first duty we owe to the memory of Jackson."

A Good Idea.

The following resolution was passed by the City Council of Atlanta: "Resolved, That in the event of the refusal on the part of any resident, to cheerfully enroll his name, for the protection of our wives, our children and our homes, the names of all such be published conspicuously in each of the daily papers of the city, that those may be distinctly known who refuse to embark in such a holy cause; and that such other action be taken in the premises as may be deemed prudent and safe for the welfare of the city."

General News Items.

Hon. C. L. Vallandigham, was in Petersburg, Va., last Monday, and took rooms at Jarrett's Hotel. During the day he was visited by many citizens, who showed him every mark of respect and sympathy.

It is reported that Sam Houston runs for Governor of Texas with the design of forming another republic.

The steamer Ruby, in attempting to run the gauntlet of the blockade at Charleston, on the 12th, was chased and fired at by the blockaders. The Captain, in order to prevent his vessel from falling into the hands of the enemy, beached and burned her off the Lighthouse. Nothing saved but the mails.

Two steamers arrived in Charleston, on the 12th, from Nassau, with valuable cargoes—one of the steamers having on board two hundred and fifty bags of salt-petre.

Enough of the returns in Virginia have been received to show that Gen. Smith, of Fauquier, has been chosen Governor, and Samuel Price, of Greenbrier, Lieutenant Governor.

A great religious revival prevails in Gen. Bragg's army. Thousands of converts are being made.

A letter from Cincinnati, Ohio, says "The approaching Democratic State Convention is the topic of conversation everywhere. Vallandigham is as good as nominated. If he wants the nomination his friends are determined he shall have it. The pressure for him in the rural district is overwhelming."

The steamers Robert E. Lee and Cornelia arrived at Wilmington on the morning of the 10th, from Nassau, with cargoes on Government account.

The Northern papers are talking of foreign intervention again. That game is played out. We cannot be deceived by that dodge again.

Every citizen of Richmond, including every man in the executive departments, is enrolled and under arms, ready for any emergency, the whole under command of Gen. Ely.

It has been decided in North Carolina, that persons furnishing substitutes in the Confederate Army, are not exempt from any calls on the "militia" for either home or other service.

A billy goat was recently sold at auction at Halifax Court House, Va., for the nice little sum of \$1,000!

### For the Advertiser.

Public Meeting. A meeting of a portion of the Saluda Regiment, for the purpose of organizing the Regiment into Mounted Infantry Companies to repel any and all invasions of the enemy, was held at Richland, on the 18th inst.

It was motioned and carried that each Battalion Company met on next Saturday, the 20th, at their respective parade grounds, organize and hold themselves ready for duty.

Moved and carried that on Tuesday after the Companies are organized that they meet at Richland, and organize into a Regiment or Battalion by electing Field Officers.

It is requested by this meeting that the people be prompt in this matter.

Also, that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Edgefield Advertiser.

JAMES C. SMYLY, Chair.  
I. CHOMLEY, Sec'y.

### For the Advertiser.

Without intending any disparagement to the present nominee, Col. THOS. G. BACON, but, on the contrary, entertaining the most kindly feelings towards him, the friends of Gen. M. C. HAMMOND nominate him for the vacancy in the State Senate occasioned by the death of the Hon. A. SIMKINS.

Gen. H. has represented the people of Edgefield in the Legislature, has some experience of its duties, and is posted on military and political affairs. We think few will object to his promotion to the post, which, high and honorable, will offer a field for the exertion of all his energies and abilities. His friends present his name confidently to the people of Edgefield believing that with his rare abilities, patriotism, and gentlemanly bearing, he will well sustain the dignity and talent with which old Edgefield has been generally represented in this branch of our Legislature.

MANY FRIENDS.  
June 16, 1863.

For the Advertiser.

The Edgefield Village Ladies' Aid Association respectfully acknowledge the reception of 3 pairs of Socks from Mrs. JOHN KINGSFORD, and \$5.00 from Mrs. H. E. DRYDEN, living at Kirkcreey S. Roads, which, to use her language, is presented "as a slight donation to our valiant soldiers in the army."

Mrs. ANN GRIFFIN, Pres.  
Mrs. WM. GOODMAN, Sec'y & Treas'r.

From the Southwest.

JACKSON, June 11.—The Bowman House, the only hotel left by the Yankees, was destroyed by fire this morning. Major Smith, commandant of the post, escaped by jumping from the third story window. He was caught in a blanket. The loss is estimated at \$250,000—partly insured.

A private letter from Clinton, La., dated June 8th, says: Port Hudson has been exposed to a tremendous fire from the enemy's fleet for the past ten days. The Essex and two other gunboats were so badly damaged that they were compelled to withdraw from the attack.

Grierson, with a force of 2,000 cavalry, attacked Col. Logan's command of 400 men, near Clinton on the 4th inst. The enemy was handsomely repulsed and driven off, with a loss of 80, including 50 prisoners. Our loss was three killed and 14 wounded.

A special to the Mississippi dated Paduca, June 12, states that the Marmaduke has captured one transport, and sunk another near Helena, on the 11th inst. Two regiments were sent from Helena against him, which he routed and drove back to the town.

Gen. Price is marching on Old Town Point, 18 miles below Helena. Twenty-two companies from North Mississippi have reported for duty under the Governor's late call.

Alleges are now turned towards Kirby Smith, in whose movements depends the fate of Port Hudson and Vicksburg.

From Louisiana.

Gen. Banks, the old Commissary in Virginia of the lamented Stonewall Jackson, appears to be doing good service in his department.

It appears that the advance of Banks' army, from Alexandria, met with no obstruction in getting across the country to the Mississippi river, and were the Marmaduke to Bayou Sara on the 10th inst. The remnant, consisting of a large Yankee force and 4,000 negroes, were in the rear, with about fifty wagons loaded with supplies. A soldier who was in the neighborhood of Cheneyville, in the lower part of Rapides Parish, states that quite a skirmish occurred there last week with this portion of Gen. Banks' force. He was a witness to one portion of the fight. He says General Morton, with 1,000 or 2,000 cavalry, made a spirited attack upon the force accompanying the train, and after several charges routed the Yankees, broke up their organization, took a large number of them prisoners, and captured the whole train of wagons, horses, mules, and provisions. Gen. Morton's cavalry also secured the whole 4,000 negroes, that the enemy had taken from the parishes through which the army had passed.

The soldier left the vicinity of Cheneyville Gen. Morton's cavalry were hourly bringing in prisoners, who had been routed and scattered by the fight. General Banks proved an excellent Commissary to the Confederates in the Shenandoah Valley, and he is now sustaining his good reputation in the Gulf Department. This is the second heavy train General Morton's cavalry has captured from Banks this spring.

A Northern View.

The New York World gives the following opinion of matters at Vicksburg: "With the western bank in their possession, the Confederates would, if they gained their independence, be a formidable rival and antagonist of the United States. By commanding one or two of the best routes for the Pacific Railroad (the only ones, in fact, which would not be subject to a snow blockade in winter), they would feed their hopes with the prospect of gaining the Pacific State. Their ability to close the Mississippi and derange the business of the country at every outbreak of war would be, in their hands, a powerful instrument of hostilities. We are therefore prepared to see them struggle for the Mississippi with the energy of desperation, until every point on that magnificent channel is in possession of the Union forces. If the result should be a general concentration of their strength in the vicinity of Vicksburg, it opens a possibility for the conclusion of the war by mid summer. The Confederates have a contingent advantage in the season of the year and the climate. If the fierce summer heat should generate pestilence, the Northern troops would be more fearfully decimated by the ravages than the Southern. Much depends on generalship; much also on the accidents that defy calculation."

The Confederates, aware that in this game the chances are against them, will probably make powerful attempts to create a diversion by alarming our military authorities for the safety of Washington, or other points in the North. If by this means, they should cause Mr. Lincoln to hold back reinforcements from Grant, as he last year held back reinforcements from McClellan, June may prove as disastrous a month in 1863 as it was in 1862; and the Union army looking into Vicksburg may, like the Union army looking into Richmond, be reduced to the hard necessity of signaling its valor by a masterly retreat, and lose the fruits of brilliant early victories when almost within its grasp."

A gentleman writing from Madison, Florida, says: "If no disaster befalls the crop of corn-cured hogs, I don't know but Florida itself could feed one half the Confederate troops for months. You would be astonished to see the apathy exhibited by our people for making cloth. The sound of the spinning wheel may be heard now almost everywhere. Jeff Davis' speech at Jackson, Mississippi, has had much to do in exciting the admiration of the ladies for homespun dresses."

Gen. Albert G. Jenkins has assumed command of the Confederate forces now in the Valley of Virginia. We need hardly say that Gen. Jenkins has already proved himself one of our best and ablest Generals, and it is quite likely that he will soon be after Milroy with the dash and energy which have over characterized his movements.

### LATEST NEWS.

Vallandigham Nominated. Richmond, June 15.—Northern dates to the 15th have been received.

Whilst the steamer Maple Leaf, was conveying 300 Confederate officers from Fortress Monroe to Port Delaware, on Wednesday, the prisoners overpowered the guard, captured the boat, and ran her to the Virginia shore, when all, but 26, escaped.

Gen. Dix sent cavalry after them, but up to the latest advices had not captured them. The Democratic State Convention at Columbus, Ohio, unanimously nominated Vallandigham for Governor.

Ex-Senator Pugh was nominated as the Democratic candidate for Lieut. Governor of Ohio. He made a fiery speech, spurning and defying Burdette's order.

Resolutions were passed denouncing the arrest and banishment of Mr. Vallandigham, and providing for the appointment of a committee to demand his restoration.

### Terrible Slaughter of Yankees at Port Hudson.

JACKSON, June 12.—There was heavy firing all night at Vicksburg, and it is still raging.

A Federal deserter from Port Hudson says Banks was two days burying his dead, the slaughter was so great.